GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6835
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2000
PIRATED SOFTWARE
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the software companies who have been found using and marketing/pirated softwares of other leading companies;

(b) the action taken against these companies;

(c) the preventive measures being taken in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to educate people to differentiate between geniune and pirated software?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN)

(a),(b),(c) and (d): In India, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of Software is covered under th Copyright law, violation of which attracts both fine and imprisonment. Government has also introduced comprehensive Information Technology Bill in the Parliament. This Bill is expected to help in dealing with software piracy and containing the problem. Government has also set up a Copyright Enforcement Advisory Council, which reviews the progress of the Enforcement of Copyright Act and also advises on measure for better enforcement. Police and custom officers are being sensitised on software piracy issues. Government has been supporting Anti-piracy campaign through NASSCOM and instructions have also been issued to various Government Departments to only use legal copy of the software.
Custom duty on Software has been made zero. This will help to curb piracy.

National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) also are maintaining an anti piracy hot line. They have reported that since 1996, more than 65 raids have been conducted with the assistance of police or court appointed commissioners. The venues of most raids have been resellers of illegal software and computer training institutes. Software worth more than Rs.40 crores in the CD ROMs, Hard Disk Drives and computers loaded with pirated software have been seized and cases have been filed. While raids have been conducted on premises of some companies and since the matters are either pending with the concerned authorities or with the courts, it will be premature to disclose any details in this regard at this juncture. Government is given full support to NASSCOM.